(b) whether Government have any Plan for its use towards national integration; and

(c) if so, what role has the private sector been given to fully use this potential?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The activities connected with film-making are mainly in the private sector in India. Many filmmakers are now making films in the video format. In addition, films made on celluloid are being transferred to video. Besides expansion of Doordarshan has already given a great fillip to the application and use of video technology. The private sector has a significant share in all these activities. A large number of programmes produced by Doordarshan itself, or, on its behalf, by film-makers are on theme of national integration, secularism and democracy, among various other subjects.

सूर्यमुखी के बीजों का आयात

2514. श्री रशीद मसूद :
श्री अजीत सिंह :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले वर्ष के दौरान सोवियत संघ से सूर्यमुखी के बीजों का आयात किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी मात्रा में बीजों का आयात किया गया और इनका मूल्य क्या था ; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उन बीजों को आयातित करने का परिवहन-प्रभार उनके मूल्य से कई गुना अधिक था और यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि अनुसंधान और शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरि कृष्ण शास्त्री) : (क) और (ख) जी हां, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पिछले वर्ष सोवियत संघ से सूरजमुखी बीजों की "उन्नत पेरेदोविक" किस्म का 35 मिट्रिक टन आयात किया था । इन बीजों की कीमत रु. 3.27 लाख थी ।

(ग) जी हां । हवाई जहाज द्वारा इन्हें लाने पर 15.75 लाख रु. खर्च हुए । इन बीजों की 86–87 के रबी के मौसम में जांच की गई थी तथा मई, 1987 में इसके संवर्धन के लिए अनुमति दे दी गई थी । 87 के खरीफ के मौसम में ही बीजों के संवर्धन के लिए बीजों को हवाई जहाज से लाया गया ताकि उसकी बुआई का एक मौसम बेकार न जाये । अगर इन बीजों को समुद्र के रास्ते लाया जाता तो उनके भारत पहुंचने में देर होती और 87 के खरीफ के मौसम में उनके संवर्धन में देरी हो जाती ।

Rehabilitation of District Central Cooperative Banks in UP

2515. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 17 District Central Cooperative Banks in U.P. have been identified as weak and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has agreed to "rehabilitate" only two of them by providing finance amounting to Rs. 150 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Out of 57 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) in Uttar Pradesh 28 DCCBs were weak as on 30th June, 1986 Rehabilitation programme has been taken up in thirteen weak DCCBs.

(b) The programme envisages measures for reorganisation of the affiliated Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs), strengthening of their resources, rationalisation of loan policies and procedures, training of staff etc. Under the programme, NABARD sanctions ad-hoc credit limits to the weak banks by relaxing the usual norms. Loans and subsidies are also given by NABARD to the concerned CCBs/PACS for strengthening share capitals and meeting additional cost of staff and the training.

Delinking of Press from big Business Houses

2516 SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Press Commission has recommended to delink the Press from the big business houses which constitute a real danger to the freedom of the Press;

(b) if so, what is the proposal of Government to implement this recommendation; and

(c) the reaction of Government to this recommendation of the Press Commission?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The Action Taken Report on the Recommendations of the Second Press Commission was laid on the Table of the House on 14th May, 1986. The Commission emphasised the need for insulating the Press from the dominating influence of other business interests in order to enable it to become a vehicle of free thought and expression. The Commission suggested delinking of ownership of Press from business houses and also stressed the need for diffusion of ownership and control of newspapers. While the principles enunciated by the Press Commission are unexceptionable, the problem is a complex one, requiring a thorough national debate before any specific action can be considered.

Crops and Foodgrains damaged by Floods in Assam

2517. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) approximate area of crops in the fields and foodgrains in the stocks damaged by the floods in Assam in the current financial year;

(b) what is the shortfall in production of foodgrains due to the floods; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) As per information furnished by Government of Assam, crops over an area of 5.96 lakh ha. were damaged due to floods in 1987. No information has been given by State Government with regard to foodgrains damaged in the State due to floods.

(b) Estimates of agricultural production in the current year are yet to be finalised.

(c) Central assistance, *inter-alia* is extended for agricultural inputs subsidy for the affected small & marginal farmers whose crops are damaged by more than 50 per cent due to floods, etc.